

We claim:

1. An optical data disc comprising:

a first side and a second side, each side including at least a first data layer, wherein data is arranged on the data layer of said first side along a first spiral oriented in a first direction when viewed on said first side, and data is arranged on the data layer of said second side along a second spiral oriented in a direction opposite that of said first spiral when viewed on said second side, so that a read head that is adjacent to one side can read the data thereon when the disc is rotated in one direction and when adjacent to the other side can read the data thereon when the disc is rotated in the other direction; and

direction indicia disposed on at least one of said first and second sides, said direction indicia being machine readable and being indicative of the direction in which the disc must be rotated to allow data to be read from at least one side.

2. The disc of claim 1 wherein each side includes two data layers.

3. The disc of claim 1 further comprising a lead-in area disposed on said disc, said lead-in area being separate from said direction indicia.

4. The disc of claim 1 wherein said disc includes program data disposed on said first side along said first spiral and wherein said direction indicia are disposed on said first side along another spiral oriented in the same direction as said first spiral.

5. The disc of claim 1 wherein said disc includes program data disposed

on said first side along said first spiral and wherein said direction indicia is disposed on said first side along another spiral oriented in the opposite direction from the direction of said first spiral.

6. The disc of claim 1 wherein said direction indicia is disposed on said first side and includes data that is machine readable when the disc is rotated in either direction.

7. An optical disc comprising:

a first side having at least one data layer with program data disposed along a first spiral;

a second side having at least one data layer with program data disposed along a second spiral, said first and second spirals being mirror images as viewed from the respective sides, so that data from both sides is readable by a head disposed adjacent to said first side when the disc is rotated in a first direction and has a first orientation or when the disc is rotated in a second direction and has a second orientation; and

direction indicia disposed on one of said first and second sides defining a direction of rotation in which data is readable.

8. The disc of claim 7 wherein said direction of indicia defines a direction of rotation in which both sides are readable.

9. The disc of claim 7 wherein at least one of said first and second sides includes first and second data layers.

10. The disc of claim 7 wherein each side includes a lead-in area with data characterizing the manner in which the disc is to be played.

11. The disc of claim 7 further comprising a special section on at least one of said first and second sides, with said direction indicia being disposed on said special section.

12. The disc of claim 11 wherein said special section is disposed on said first side and said direction indicia is disposed along a third spiral oriented in a direction opposite that of said first spiral.

13. The disc of claim 11 wherein said direction indicia includes data readable when the disc is rotated in either said first or said second direction.

14. The disc of claim 12 wherein said direction indicia provides a first indication when the disc is rotated in said first direction and a second indication when the disc is rotated in said second direction.

15. The disc of claim 12 wherein said direction indicia includes bar codes.

16. The disc of claim 12 wherein said direction indicia includes BCA coding.